

## BRAWN THE POTENT FACTOR

Nerve and Beef Are Staying Qualities in the Prize Ring.

## SCIENCE SELDOM WINS THE FIGHT

Sharkey-McCoy Event Furnishes Evidence that Something More Than Exhibition Boxing Is Necessary in a Fight.

That superiority in brawn is a more potent factor in the prize ring than superiority in science is the moral that is contained in the result of the Sharkey-McCoy fight last week. In fact, that is the story that has been interwoven all through the history of the gloved men up to the time that the scientific boxing in Carson City a couple of years ago. The man who possesses enough muscularity to stand up under the stroke of a physically weaker opponent and now and then land a pile-driving wallop is the man who will pluck the laurels. That is why the burly Jack, Sharkey, instead of Kid McCoy, now stands second in Fitzsimmons.

For the man-of-war's man was not overly clever. That is the opinion of almost all the critics, even though they admit that he displayed marvelous improvement. He had brawn and beef and a stout heart and he was received in the early rounds of the fight. He did not deter him from keeping after his man. On the other hand, McCoy's physique was not sturdy enough to stand up under the far too punches. He weakened after the early rounds and then it was only a question of how long his side-splashing and his agility would keep him out of the way of the incoming bulldozing rush and what that was to knock him out of the heavy-weight pugilist.

But the Kid surprised many a pugilist follower. He himself had a punch up his sleeve that was hardly expected. In that third round, when he was badly hurt, he sent him back with a right, he sprung something decidedly unexpected. His admirers may have thought that he would cut the score to ribbons with his jab, but they could not see that he would be able to floor 150 pounds of solid beef. The man who came from the arena with a groggy sensation in his cranium, but the Kid could not find the sleep spot that would keep him down and out.

The fight was a red letter event in the history of the prize ring. It was the best that has ever been pulled off in the prize ring, but its fairness will go far to obliterate the stain that has blotted the escutcheon of pugilism as a consequence of the faking affairs which have recently occurred in Gotham.

The fight would seem to drive McCoy back amongst the middleweight, where he properly belongs, while the burly sailor is a bit below the height of his ambition. The question that will now bother the pugilistic sport is how the prize ring will treat this very prominent aspirant for his championship title. Sharkey has fought his way up through the horde of aspiring heavyweights, and there is hardly any doubt that he will readily enough say to the promoter, "I will take the prize, which has been Robert has been advancing. It has been Robert of the question yet to make any arrangements, but Fitz has given it out that he is willing to meet the tar—with what sincerity the future will tell. Robert says: "Let Sharkey have the prize, which has been said he would, and we will accept it. He can get a match for \$10,000 as easy as rolling off a log. We have been waiting for that bluff, and we will now see what he will do. All he has to do is to issue his challenge to the regular way and cover the \$15,000 which I have posted and the fight will be arranged."

As interesting a pugilistic battle as the Sharkey-McCoy fight was the array of the Gardner administered a gutting to Dave Sullivan on Monday night. Although he gave away in the neighborhood of ten pounds, that eccentric genius, best known as the "Omaha Kid," won a handy victory by knocking the man out with a very trick known to the boxing craft. It has been Robert of the question yet to make any arrangements, but Fitz has given it out that he is willing to meet the tar—with what sincerity the future will tell. Robert says: "Let Sharkey have the prize, which has been said he would, and we will accept it. He can get a match for \$10,000 as easy as rolling off a log. We have been waiting for that bluff, and we will now see what he will do. All he has to do is to issue his challenge to the regular way and cover the \$15,000 which I have posted and the fight will be arranged."

The bout between Dixon and Young Pluto, the Australian, was also slated for last week, but it has been postponed until January 27.

The suddenness with which the champion boxer, Jim Corbett, has dropped into innocuous desuetude is startling. Ever since his latest fake in giddy New York he has passed out of sight, so to speak. The public press has hardly a line about him nowadays. So has the great fallen. There are rumors, however, that Jim is trying to work a bit of a graft on the coast in the shape of a match with Peter Jackson.

Jackson is one of the rankiest in the prize ring, as they say in society, and is a physical, gin-soaked wreck in San Francisco. There was a time when Peter was an ace in the heavyweight class—for example when he made his remarkable draw with Corbett in "Prisco." In that fight he was handicapped by a swollen belly and later tried repeatedly to arrange a return match with the Pompadour. But Corbett refused to meet Peter the Great on a second occasion, though his clever press agents led the public to believe that Peter, not Jim, was the unwilling party. Now that Jackson has become the version of a pugilist, the pugilistic Corbett is willing to take him on. If the sporting public of the coast stand for it they are even worse suckers than is generally believed. Jackson has frittered away the thousands of dollars he has earned by the sweat of his ham-like fists and is subsisting on the charity of his friends and the gifts of money that he can pick up in his fixed bouts. His recent bout with Jeffries was a fake of the worst kind.

One of the best fights ever held in the west is slated for next Saturday night at Carson City, Nevada. There are to be a half dozen different bouts, each six rounds in length, and cracks will appear in all of them. One of the prominent personages to take part will be Oscar Gardner.

## SPORTS OF VARIOUS KINDS

English College Athletes Likely to Come Across the Pond Next Season with a Foot Ball Team.

Casper Whitney in Harper's Weekly writes as follows of Nebraska and Missouri valley foot ball and scattered golden grains of truth. "Nebraska is staunch in its opposition to professionalism. And that it practices what it preaches was proven by the faculty taking some of the best men out of the game for not living up to the prescribed scholarship standard. Cowgill, the veteran quarter, was taken out early in the season and several weeks later the faculty also barred Elliott, his clever successor, who played in the Kansas-Nebraska game, so that Nebraska had to rely on Drain, a very mediocre quarter, the rest of the season. From this evidence and other information in my possession, I believe no one played for Nebraska in 1898 against whom objections could be raised on ethical grounds. This was especially commendable, since none of these men were protected by other colleges. I can see no great uplift in either body, either in reality or in Missouri valley foot ball. In 1895, when Bliss coached Missouri and Hector Cowan Kansas 8,000 persons saw the Thanksgiving match; in 1896, 4,000; in 1897, 3,000, and in 1898, 2,000. This is undoubtedly due, in some measure, to Missouri's weakness since the scores being 1896, 0-20; 1897, 0-15; and 1898, 0-12—though it is true the Kansas-Nebraska contest drew the largest crowd (2,000 to 2,400) that ever assembled at a foot ball match on the college grounds at Lawrence. But I believe that the decided result of the indifference to unwholesome sports has been to make the game a less important feature. The class of spectators naturally attracted to college contests has become dissipated, lost interest and withdrawn its support. That appears to be the reasonable explanation, for elsewhere under similar conditions the results are the same, while everywhere spectators increase in number and interest so long as the sport is healthful and honest."

English college athletes are talking of invading this country early next fall in a foot ball way. A scheme is on foot among the Brits to get up a gridiron team to play the regular way and cover the \$15,000 which I have posted and the fight will be arranged."

Another inter-collegiate association, which may be an athletic fact among the big eastern universities in a short time, is a cricket league. The start has been made in the shape of a sort of tri-club association, of which Haverford, the University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard, are members. Yale and Princeton are expected to put out the victors of the season, and it will be interesting to learn whether this is so or not.

Cornell's aquatic prospects this season are not particularly bright. There are five vacant places in the boat, and the material with which they are filled is not of the rather mediocre quality. Because of this, in addition to other reasons, it is more than probable that the Ithacans will refuse to row more than one race this spring. Therefore Yale and Harvard can meet their rivals by entering the Pennsylvanian-Columbia-Cornell race, which they are unlikely to do. This latter race, by the way, will be of additional interest this year because Wisconsin and probably a Canadian crew will come in and make it a five-bout affair. If this could be arranged, the race would without doubt be the red letter event in the inter-collegiate aquatic circles of the season.

Among other qualifications Chauncey Fisher, ex-manager of the ex-Omaha base ball team, appears to possess no little amount of diplomacy. He presented a plan Johnson with a Christmas gift, and the bulky president of the Western league comments as follows upon it: "This is the first present I have ever received from a ball player. The gift is a splendid silver toilet set—brushes, comb, mirror and a ring set, my name engraved on each piece. It was a royal thing for Chauncey to do, and I appreciate deeply the remembrance." There are some who know Chauncey unkind enough to say that he had in his mind the scriptural injunction, "Cast ye bread upon the waters," etc. In fact, it is rumored that Chauncey has his weather eye glued on the manager of the Buffaloes and that Ben has been asked to put in the entering wedge.

On January 25 an attempt will be made to revive the old Western association. A call has been issued for a meeting, to take place on that date at Rock Island, for the purpose of effecting an organization for next season. Representatives from Rockford, Peoria, Bloomington, Jacksonville, Springfield, Decatur, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Ottumwa, Cedar Rapids, Burlington, Keokuk, and St. Joseph are expected to attend. The proposed circuit is to contain eight stations.

The selling of that old-time base ball, "Germany" Smith, to the Minneapolis club by St. Louis, probably marks the beginning of the end of the career of the one-time crack shortstop of the Cincinnati Reds. Smith, in his prime, was without an equal, and when three years ago Buckner Ewing traded him and Chauncey Fisher to the Brooklynites for Corcoran, the Cincinnati raised a huge howl. Smith soon showed that he was not the Smith of old, and he was shortly ordered to increase the perspiration on the bench. He was assiduously engaged in this work for the Trolleydrivers until last season, when he was released to the late lamented Omaha club. Before he made up his mind to come here, however, St. Louis claimed and got him. He played one good game and was laid up with injuries afterward. When he performed on the diamond again he was all fingers and his error column looked as if it was afflicted

with him. Now the Browns have sent him to the stable and it is a cinch that he is enconced firmly in the clutches of the habesenas.

## GOSSIP WITH THE HORSEMEN

Light Harness Circuit Will Include Many Western Towns and Will Open for Business in July.

The Great Western Light Harness circuit, which developed such brilliant racing at Dubuque, Joliet, Independence, Terre Haute and other western trotting centers last season, will be renewed next year. The representatives of the cities recently met in Chicago and made the necessary arrangements. Terre Haute will lead off the opening of the circuit on July 4 and from there the horses will probably go to the following places: Peoria, July 15; Detroit, July 17; Chicago, July 21-22; Joliet, August 1-5; Fort Wayne, August 7-12; Joliet, August 14-19; Dubuque, August 21-26; Independence, August 28; September 2; Minneapolis, September 4-9; Milwaukee, September 11-16; Springfield, Ill., September 18-23; Terre Haute, September 25-30; Louisville, October 2-7; Lexington, October 9-11.

It is quite possible that St. Louis next season will have a place on the map of the circuit. The annual light harness meeting in connection with the St. Louis fair was on June 15, 1899, and it was a very successful one, but of late years the runners have had the call with the managers of the track and harness racing has been abandoned. It is said that the big crowd which turned out last fall to see the great pacers performed has been renewed and it is decided on a trotting meeting for 1899.

Redowa, the largest money winner among the French trotters of 1898, won right at \$12,000 during the season just closed. This is the highest sum ever won by a French horse. John Nolan, the largest winner on the American trotting turf, but about \$1,000 more than the next largest winner on the American list among the trotters, Nolan, though, had a chance to win far larger money than the French mare, but he had to go home three in five to two, whereas Redowa had to go two miles and a half on some occasions to win purses for which Nolan would not, latterly, have been started.

Andy McDowell, the "king of reinmen," who is very well known to many of the horsemen in the vicinity of Omaha and throughout the state, will be an easterner for several years. Although there has been considerable talk of his taking hold of an Illinois stock farm, it is now reported that he has been engaged to take charge of the Pennsylvania State Farm, Harrisburg, Pa. McDowell has earned an enviable record during his long connection with the light harness turf, and it is not to be doubted that he will land some unknown youngsters in the front ranks before he has been with the Pennsylvania farm long.

A bill is now before the house judiciary committee at Washington which is of great interest to race track followers. This is the Gillet bill, which prohibits the use of the telephone and telegraph for betting and horse racing gambling. If the bill should pass it will put an end to pool selling except on the tracks.

## IN THE BASE BALL WORLD

Some Things Indicate that a Ten-Club League Will Be One of the Features of the Coming Season.

Bourbonville has sprung the latest move in the big league game of bluff. The other night the Colonels held a meeting and passed resolutions to the effect that it is the sense of the stockholders that the club should be continued to the end of the season agreement. They also called upon the faning public to come to the assistance of the club by subscribing to the capital stock and supporting a first class club. There is but one meaning to this action. The directors of the Louisville club have simply come to the determination to occupy a position in the game that is on-demand a big price of the other magnates in the league for their franchise and back it up, if possible, with a patriotic demonstration on the part of the townspeople. In other words, the management have told the magnates that the club is not for sale on any terms. They also called upon the faning public to come to the assistance of the club by subscribing to the capital stock and supporting a first class club. 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